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BOARD OF REGENTS MEETS

The Board of Regents of the National Library of Medicine met November 15 and 16 at the Library. The Board welcomed two new members given interim appointments by the President: Dr. William B. Bean, Professor and Chairman of the Department of Internal Medicine, State University of Iowa, who was formerly a Chairman of the Board from 1960 to 1961; and Dr. Stewart G. Wolfe, Jr., Professor and Chairman of the Department of Medicine at the University of Oklahoma.

Dr. Cummings, Director of the Library, reported on the passage of the Medical Library Assistance Act (P.L. 89-291) during the last session of the 89th Congress.

The Board of Regents, acting as the National Medical Libraries Assistance Advisory Board, as required by the Act, will play a major role in implementing the new Law by advising and assisting the Surgeon General in the preparation of general regulations and with respect to policy matters arising in its administration.

The Director also reported increases in all Library services as well as the addition of two programs: participation in the Department-wide Drug Information Clearinghouse; and development of a greatly expanded effort in micro-image preservation of the deteriorating portion of the Library's collection.

Mr. Charles J. Austin, Chief of the Information Systems Division, reported that MEDLARS, the Library's Medical Literature Analysis and Retrieval System, has been operating for two years without a break in service. The number of citations stored and the number of bibliographies retrieved has increased steadily.

The next Board of Regents meeting is scheduled for March 21-22, 1966.

NBS TASK FORCE REPORTS ON MICRO-IMAGE STUDY

A National Bureau of Standards Task Force has submitted a report to the Library containing technical recommendations for a program of microfilm

preservation of that part of the Library's collection which is beginning to deteriorate.

The Task Force recommended that material be filmed on 35 mm. microfilm at a 12 to 1 reduction, as a basis for a limited-access file.

The Library invited a small group of computer systems designers, users, and producers to consider the NBS proposals and the technical and systems possibilities of developing a graphic image storage and retrieval system.

NLM AVERAGES 10 VISITORS DAILY

1965 was a busy year for the National Library of Medicine tour guides. During the past 12 months more than 2,300 visitors saw the library - an average of 10 visitors daily. The total included five groups of more than 100 and many smaller groups ranging from 20 to 50 persons.

Approximately 400 visitors from 39 different countries toured the library. Although most of the visitors represented the biomedical or library science fields, tours included experts in the management, computer, and government fields along with housewives, school children, and interested citizens.

The Library will continue its daily 3 pm tour in 1966. The tour, which begins at the Guard's Desk in the Lobby, takes approximately 30 minutes. Special tours or film showings may be arranged by calling the NLM Tour Guide Coordinator on 496-6308.

DPD BECOMES INFORMATION SYSTEMS DIVISION

The Library's Data Processing Division has been reorganized and renamed the Information Systems Division.

The Division is now composed of the Office of the Chief (Charles J. Austin), and the following three Sections: Research and Development, Computer Applications, and Operations. The Operations Section consists of an Input Unit and Computer Unit.

HISTORY OF MEDICINE CHIEF ADDRESSES ALABAMA GROUP

John B. Blake, Ph.D., Chief of the History of Medicine Division, recently addressed the University of Alabama School of Dentistry Century Club.

Speaking at the Century Club dinner, on the occasion of the receipt of a gift of correspondence between George and Martha Washington and their dentists, Dr. Blake expressed the National Library of Medicine's long-standing and continuing interest in the history of the health sciences and professions. He pointed out that the Library's first catalog, handwritten in 1840, listed among its 130 entries John Hunter's treatise on the teeth.

The Library considers the study of history and the development of medical history resources as part of its programs to improve our nation's health science libraries, Dr. Blake explained. He emphasized the value of an historical perspective of medicine for meaningful evaluation of present accomplishments.

NEW PUBLICATION IDENTIFIES NLM SERVICES TO DENTISTRY

A new leaflet, Dentistry and the National Library of Medicine, outlines NLM services and programs of specific interest to the dental community. Copies are available upon request to the Coordinator for Dental Affairs, National Library of Medicine, 8600 Rockville Pike, Bethesda, Maryland 20014.

SPOTLIGHT ON HMD

The History of Medicine Division (HMD) is a storehouse of fascinating books, manuscripts, and prints. This Division has the custody of old and rare books in the National Library of Medicine. About 60,000 items, most of which were published before 1801, are contained in the historical collections. There are approximately 535 incunabula, 2,000 early American medical works, 33,000 monographs of the 16th, 17th and 18th centuries, and thousands of early medical theses and pamphlets. There is, in addition, a collection of about 60,000 prints and photographs. All these make HMD probably the largest collection of printed source materials for medical history in the world. HMD also has custody of NLM's growing manuscript collection.

HMD is a library within a library. It has its own stacks, catalog, and elevator and a special temperature control and fire extinguishing system. All of the usual library operations are performed by the staff, including selection and acquisition of historical materials, cataloging of books, and reference services.

Open to the public, the collection may be used by any person with a serious purpose. Readers must fill out a registration form, present identification for the use of rare books, and be familiar with the special rules designed for the protection of the collection. Interlibrary loan service is provided through microfilm copies.

Special note can be taken of those books in the Incunabula Room. Included in this collection are not only some 535 books representing the first fifty years of printing, but also some choice manuscripts including the oldest item owned by the Library. This is an Arabic manuscript of the section on gastrointestinal diseases in the al-Hawi of Rhazes. It is dated November 1094. Also included in this collection are palm-leaf manuscripts written in Singhalese, a Sanskritic language of Ceylon. One is a handbook for native doctors. Another contains medical charms written about 1800.

First editions of William Harvey's treatise on the circulation of the blood, published in 1628, and Jenner's book of 1798 which introduced vaccination for

smallpox as well as the 1543 edition of Vesalius' work on anatomy are also in the HMD collection.

The manuscript collection includes letters written by George Washington, Benjamin Rush, one of the signers of the Declaration of Independence, and Florence Nightingale.

NOTES FOR MEDICAL CATALOGERS

Notes for Medical Catalogers, published irregularly by the Library's Technical Services Division, serves as a vehicle for the issuance of additions and changes to National Library of Medicine Classification and Medical Subject Headings. It also carries explanations of NLM descriptive cataloging policies.

Copies of the first two issues--April 1965 and October 1965--are available upon request from the Senior Scientific Editor, National Library of Medicine, 8600 Rockville Pike, Bethesda, Maryland 20014.

NLM LITERATURE SEARCHES

Single copies of the following bibliographies, prepared either by conventional library methods or by means of the MEDLARS computer, are available on request to the Library. They may be ordered by title or number as listed below.

L.S. No.	Title	Number of Citations
32-65	Hospital Acquired Infections.	276 in English
33-65	Metabolic Aspects of Dietary Carbohydrates. Mid-1963-October 1965.	122 in English

DR. KRONICK TAKES NEW POST

Dr. David A. Kronick, Chief of the Reference Services Division since August 1964, left the Library December 1 to assume the position of Librarian at South Texas Medical School, part of the University of Texas in San Antonio.

Pending appointment of a successor, Dr. John B. Blake, Chief of HMD, has been named Acting Chief of RSD. He will be assisted by Dr. Robert F. Clarke, recently appointed Special Assistant to the Chief, RSD.

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